

POSSESSION - PART 3 - GENITIVE 'N'

Lesson 25

Besides the independent and suffixed possessive pronouns, which are used for human possessors, Kiribati employs a genitive particle 'n' for linking non-human nouns which have a kind of possessive relationship. As was mentioned in the lesson on possessive suffixes, this form is also used in the 3rd person singular when the possessor is expressed: waen Tiaon = John's leg.

It is more or less equivalent to the English 'of', or often " 's":

taubuki-n te auti	roof of the house
nuuka-n te karaanga	middle of ^{the} river
tangi-n te kitaa	sound of the guitar
raanti-n te tautaeka	the government's launch

You will notice that there is no immediate way to distinguish whether the possessed form is singular or plural, for plural, lengthening does not occur with 'n'. Thus, 'boki n te reirei' could be either 'the school's book' or 'the school's books'. Other features of the sentence would mark plurality. If the possessor is plural, the 'te' is dropped:

taubuki-n auti	roofs of the houses
nuuka-n karaanga	middle of rivers
tangi-n kitaa	sounds of guitars
rānti-n tautaeka	governments' launches

This 'n' form, which is suffixed to the noun (like the possessive suffixes) may appear before a possessed noun as well:

taubukin ana auti	roof of his house
nuukan aia karaanga	middle of their river
tangin au kitaa	sound of my guitar
rāntin amii tautaeka	your government's launch

Remember that when the possessor is human, the possessive pronouns are used, suffixed or independent depending on whether the noun is inalienable or not. (see previous lesson).

'n' is also used to link the parts of compound words, but the operation is somewhat different, and the 'n' is not suffixed. See lesson on compounding.

LESSON 25

A. Use 'n' (and insert 'i' if necessary) to show the indicated relationship between the two nouns:

ex:	te kamaama, te auti	the window of the house
	te kamaaman te auti	
1.	te booro, te reirei	the school's ball
2.	te auti, te mataroa	the door of the house
3.	te nuuka, te kaawa	the middle of the village
4.	te kirii, te mata	the color of the dog
5.	te burawa, te baeki	the bag of flour
6.	te kawai, te kaawa	the road of the village
7.	te mweenga, te rau	the house of peace
8.	te rau, te auti	the thatch of the house
9.	te auti, te oo	the wall of the house
10.	te uee, te aroka	the plant's flower
11.	te uaa, te kai	the fruit of the tree
12.	te kaa, te aobiti	the office's car
13.	te tautaeka, te booti	the government's boat
14.	te m'aneaba, te kaawa	the village's maneaba
15.	te anene, te taromauri	the song of prayer
16.	te aro, te boki	the book of religion
17.	te taetae, te aba	the language of the country
18.	te baba, te taeka	the word of the fool
19.	te rebwe, te baa	the sound of thunder
20.	te oota, te aba	the light of the world

B. Use 'n' (and insert 'i' where necessary) to show the indicated relationships between the two nouns:

1. mataroa, auti the houses' doors
2. baa, booki the leaves of the books
3. ranga, kaa the cars' wheels
4. kai, wakaa the trees' roots
5. ram'a, auti the houses' gables
6. taibora, uee the flowers of the tables
7. kiing, mataroa the keys of the doors
8. matan, auti the colors of the houses
9. burae, atuu the hair of the heads
10. mata, baoki the lids of the boxes
11. tiib'ati, bai the teapots' handles
12. rua, b'ab'ai the pits of b'ab'ai
13. m'aanga, kai the trees' branches
14. kai, baa the leaves of the trees
15. b'ati, reirei the schools' buses
16. oota, taura the light of the lamps
17. baene, uaanikai the baskets of fruits
18. burae, mannikiba the birds' feathers
19. atuu, booki the titles of the books
20. kamaama, auti the windows of the houses

LESSON 25

C. Written. Translate the following into Kiribati:

1. The government's car was broken.

2. The mountains of Hawaii are beautiful.

3. We went to the port of Betio.

4. You can't see the tops of the houses.

5. The boy lost the school's book.

6. Please give me a glass of beer.

7. The cup of coffee is on the table.

8. We listened to 'the voice of Tarawa'.

9. The colony's ship arrived yesterday.

10. The fisherman's canoe is red and blue.
